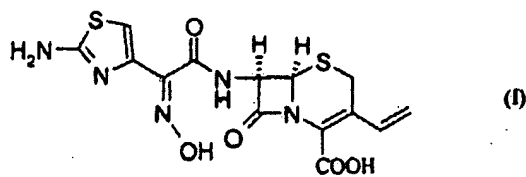


**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

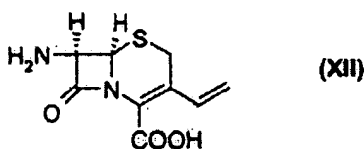
1. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of cefdinir of the formula

(I):



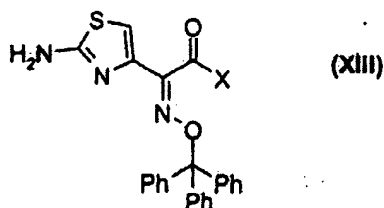
comprising:

- i) condensing 7-amino-3-cephem-4-carboxylic acid of the formula (XII):



wherein R<sub>1</sub> is as defined above,

with a compound of the formula (XIII):



where X represents an activation group,

in the presence of a tertiary amine and a solvent, wherein the solvent is selected from the group consisting of organic solvents and water, followed by treatment with a base to produce a salt of compound formula (XIV):